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Further to your telephone conversation earlier today with Dr. Muriel Liberto of our office, I am faxing herewith a copy of our August 21, 2003 Communication in response to the May 21, 2003 Final Office Action issued in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/492,954, and a copy of the return receipt postcard date stamped August 25, 2003.

DOCKET: 0575/58077

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FILE

Applicant Anna Marie Pyle et al.
Client Columbia University 0575 File No. 58077 JPW/AJM/HA
Date August 21, 2003 Atty. _____

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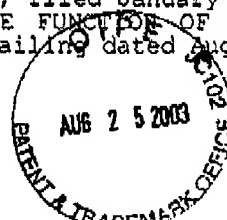
COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO MAY 21, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION in connection with Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky, U.S. Serial No. 09/492,954, filed January 27, 2000, for ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA HELICASES, including Certificate of Mailing dated August 21, 2003.

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Applicant Anna Marie Pyle et al.
Client Columbia University 0575 File No. 58077 JPW/AJM/HA
Date August 21, 2003 Atty. _____

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COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO MAY 21, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION in connection with Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky, U.S. Serial No. 09/492,954, filed January 27, 2000, for ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA HELICASES, including Certificate of Mailing dated August 21, 2003.



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JAN 22 2004

Applicants: Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky
Serial No.: 09/492,954 Examiner: A. Chakrabarti
Filed : January 27, 2000 Group Art Unit: 1655
For : ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA
HELICASES

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
August 21, 2003

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
MAY 21, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is filed in response to the May 21, 2003 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the May 21, 2003 Final Office Action is due on August 21, 2003. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the subject application. No claims have been added, canceled or amended herein. Thus, claims 1-8 are still pending and under examination.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Shuman (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, November 1992) in view of Bjornson et al. (Biochemistry, December 1994).

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, applicants respectfully traverse, and maintain that the Examiner has failed